GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:918
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001
LEASE OF AIR TOWERS
SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Radio has been allowed to lease out its towers to the private FM operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with terms and conditions laid down in this regard;

(c) whether the technical and financial feasibility of the scheme has been studied by the AIR;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(f) the manner in which it will benefit the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d) : Prasar Bharati has decided to permit the private FM operators to share itscommon infrastructural facilities, including towers, subject to technical feasibility and on payment of licence fee. Each and every request is considered from the point of view of its technical feasibility after taking into account Pasar Bharati`s own requirement andlicence fee is fixed on the basis of the investments and operational cost of these facilities. Detailed terms and conditions vary from place to place depending upon the requirement of private operator, nature of infrastructural facilities and the number of operators.

(e): Does not arise.

(f): Speedy operationalisation of private FM Stations will help provide high quality multi- channelentertainment. Other benefits would include revenue from licence fee, increased employment and boost to related manufacturing industries due to increased demand for FM radio and related accessories. Sharing of Prasar Bharati`s towers will ensure optimal utilisation of these assets.

STATENMENT REFERED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THELOK SABHA UNSTRRED QUESTION NO. 918 REGARDING ` LEASE OF AIR TOWERS` FOR ANSWER ON 22/11/2001.

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. Prasar Bharati has allowed private FM operators to use its towers on license feesbasis. The approval has been accorded by Ministry of Finance who have instructed that the proposed licencing / renting should be done in a transparent manner and the best competitive rates as per prevailing markets should be obtained.

(b), (c) & (d): The technical examination has been done by Prasar Bharatiand it has been found technically feasible to locate common antenna on existing towers, if necessary, with some modifications. The detailed terms − technical, financial and legal − may vary from place to place depending upon the size of tower, number of operators, Prasar Bharati`s own requirement etc.

(e): Does not arise.

f): The country will benefit by speedy implementation of Private FM Stationsthereby providing high quality multi-channel entertainment. Consequential benefits would be in the nature of revenue from licence fees, increased employment in and a boost to related manufacturing industries due to increased demand for radios and related accessories. Also sharing of Prasar Bharati`s towers will ensure optimal utilisation of national assets

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.918 dated 22.11.2001 By Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari To be replied on 22/11/2001

(a) whether All India Radio has been allowed to lease out its towers to the private FM operators;

(a) Yes

(b) if so,the details thereof alongwith terms and conditions laid down in this regard;

(b) The proposal has recently been approved by Ministry of Finance with the instructions that licencing/ renting should be done in a transparent manner and the best compititive rates as per prevailing markets should be obtained

(c) whether the technical and technical feasibility of the scheme has been studied by the AIR;

(c),(d) & (e) The technical examination has been done by Prasar Bharati in this respect and it has been found technically possible to locate common antenna on existing towers if any with some modifications in these metros

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(f) the manner in which it will benefit the country?

FM Radio stations would be able to commencebroadcasting services for the benefit of public at large. Consequential benefits would be in the nature of revenue from licence fees, increased employment in and a boost to related manufaturing industries due to increased demand for Radios , walkmans, antennas and other FM Radio related accessories.